

Minutes of the General Business Meeting ISBE

Asilomar Conference Centre, Monterey,
California July 1998

Steve Emlen (SE, the incoming President) opened the meeting and introduced the new Secretary Marion Petrie and new members of the Executive Committee, Jane Brockman and Andre Dhondt. He thanked the outgoing officers; president, Tim Birkhead, Secretary, Patty Parker and Councillors Mark Elgar and Rauno Alatalo.

SE then introduced Janis Dickinson (JD) and asked her to present the local organising committee report. He thanked Janis for organising an excellent meeting. Janis received warm applause.

JD thanked everyone on behalf of herself and co-organisers. Janis reported that there were 594 registrants at the meeting representing 33 countries. 63% of registrants came from outside the US. There were 480 presentations and 370 spoken papers. This allowed everyone who wished to give a spoken paper but resulted in a large number of concurrent sessions.

Journal matters

SE reported that Paul Schmid-Hempel had retired as Editor and that it took two new European editors, Innes Cuthill and Gunilla Rosenqvist, to replace him. There are now two North American editors, Marc Mangel and Ron Ydenberg (RY) and two European editors. SE thanked Paul for his services and welcomed the two new editors.

RY reported that the Journal was doing well and that the submission rate was still high. Previous backlog problems had been solved and

now papers appear in 5 or 6 months after acceptance. On average the refereeing process takes 3-4 months.

Don Kramer added that it was very important for members to support the journal by encouraging library subscriptions and sending their best papers there.

The Oxford University Press representatives (Steve Johnson and Cathy Kennedy) reported that the journal will be on-line within a year, and that now there were 324 Library subscriptions.

Someone from the floor asked whether being on-line meant the journal will be free. The OUP representatives explained that an on-line library subscription results in a site licence available (for a fee) to an I.P. address with a valid password.

There were now 1200 subscribing members and membership went up by 200 in the last year largely because membership was a requirement to attend the Monterey meeting.

Someone from the floor asked whether it was an Executive decision to require ISBE membership to attend meeting. SE said it was.

SE then reported that members of the Editorial Board of the journal serve for a 6-year period with a third of the board rotating off every 2 years. Steve Emlen reported that Jonathan Newman, Mary Reed, Anne Houde and Theodore Bakker had all agreed to be new members of the editorial board. Serge Daan, Paul Harvey, Rob Warner and Manfred Milinski would be rotating off the editorial board.

SE also reported that the Executive Committee had agreed to adopt the same ethical guidelines about the use of animals in research as formulated by the Association for the study of

Animal Behaviour and the Animal Behaviour Society. Research published in the society's journal will, in future, have to conform to these guidelines (which are published in the January issue of the journal *Animal Behaviour* each year).

It was reported that Marc Mangel will be stepping down as Editor from next July and that the executive were open to suggestions of people who would be interested in serving as a North American Editor.

Financial matters

SE jokingly reported that the ISBE was the "most broke" society he had ever been involved in. The society had a running balance of about \$16,000. This was not a large nest egg and the executive had decided that it would not be doing anything to spend this money in the future. However, it was hoped that we would have paid off our initial debt to OUP (for establishing the journal) within 5 years and that after this time the society could think about spending money.

Pitelka Prize

SE reported that this prize is available to people who are within 5 years of gaining their PhD and who have published in *Behavioural Ecology*.

Future meetings

Paul Schmid-Hempel (PSH) presented a report in the absence of Paul Ward, the main organiser, of the next meeting which will be held in Zurich. The most likely dates for this meeting will be 8th -12th August 2000.

Registration fees will be slightly lower than at Asilomar but accommodation costs will be slightly higher. The overall cost of the meeting will

be about the same as attending Monterey. There will be different registration rates for members and non-members. PSH also reported that it was the organiser's intention for there to be fewer talks in order to reduce the size and length of sessions and to allow more time for discussion.

SE said that a couple of potential organisers had been approached with a view to organising the meeting in 2002, and that it was hoped that this meeting could be held in a place other than Europe or North America. SE also stated that if anyone would like to hold a future meeting then the Executive would like to hear from you.

New business

SE asked if anyone wanted to raise any further matters. There was no response from the floor so SE called the meeting to a close by saying "Go disco!".

Marion Petrie
Secretary

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